

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2603
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1576

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, YO, BU

SUBJECT: VISIT TO TURKEY OF YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER

1. FEBRUARY 27 EMBOFF DISCUSSED THE FEBRUARY 24-26 VISIT OF YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER MINIC WITH MFA OFFICER IN CHARGE OF BALKAN AFFAIRS, ERKAN GEZER. GEZER SAID FROM TURKEY'S POINT OF VIEW THE VISIT HAD BEEN A VERY SUCCESSFUL ONE. HE SAID THERE WERE NO IMPORTANT BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT THAT TURKEY HAD BEEN VERY INTERESTED IN REVITALIZING ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND THIS VISIT HAD SERVED THAT PURPOSE. HE SAID HE EXPECTED THAT PRIMIN DEMIREL WOULD VISIT YUGOSLAVIA WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AND THAT THE GOT WAS VERY HOPEFUL THAT ITS INVITATION TO PRESIDENT TITO WHICH HAD BEEN EXTENDED IN 1972 AND 1974 AND REEXTENDED DURING MINIC'S VISIT WOULD BE ACCEPTED SOME
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TIME THIS YEAR.

2. DURING HIS TWO DAYS IN ANKARA, MINIC HAD TWO EXTENDED PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH FONMIN CAUWAYANGIL. GEZER SAID THAT NO ONE ELSE EXCEPT AN INTERPRETER HAD BEEN PRESENT AND THE MINISTRY HAD NOT YET BEEN BRIEFED BY THE FONMIN ON WHAT HAD OCCURRED DURING THOSE CONVERSATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, HE KNEW THAT THE PRIMARY TOPIC CAGLAYANGIL HAD INTENDED TO DISCUSS WAS CYPRUS. HE SAID THAT CAGLAYANGIL HAD PLANNED TO EXPLAIN THE TURKISH POSITION ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE IN GREAT DETAIL WITH THE HOPE THAT YUGOSLAVIA COULD BE PERSUADED TO WORK FOR A MORE BALANCED THIRD WORLD POSITION DURING THE GROUP OF 77 MEETING IN COLOMBO LATER THIS YEAR.

3. IN MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS, THE EMPHASIS WAS ON DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. A DECISION WAS MADE TO REACTIVATE A JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION WHICH HAD LAST MET IN 1972. (GEZER SAID MEETINGS HAD NOT BEEN HELD SINCE THEN BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAIN TURKISH DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION.) ONE SPECIFIC AREA OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND TURKEY IS IN THE AREA OF TRANSIT FEES. GEZER SAID THAT A YUGOSLAV-TURKISH AGREEMENT ON FREE TRANSIT FOR YUGOSLAV VEHICLES WAS DUE TO EXPIRE ON MARCH 7 AND TURKEY COULD NOT RENEGOTIATE A NEW AGREEMENT ALLOWING FOR FREE TRANSIT.

4. DURING MINIC'S MEETING WITH PRIMIN DEMIREL, THE ONLY SUBSTANTIVE SUBJECT DISCUSSED WAS THE TRANSIT PROBLEM. DEMIREL PROPOSED THAT YUGOSLAVIA, TURKEY AND BULGARIA WORK OUT A JOINT TRANSIT POLICY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT ALL TRAFFIC FROM THE DEVELOPED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO THE OIL RICH COUNTRIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST HAD TO PASS THROUGH THOSE THREE COUNTRIES. MINIC'S REACTION WAS GENERALLY POSITIVE AND HE PROMISED TO STUDY DEMIREL'S PROPOSAL.

5. THE FUTURE OF BALKAN COOPERATION WAS ALSO A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS. GEZER SAID THAT BOTH YUGOSLAVIA AND TURKEY STRONGLY SUPPORT FUTURE BALKAN CONFERENCES. HE SAID THE TURKISH DELEGATION DURING THE LAST CONFERENCE IN ATHENS HAD BEEN EMPOWERED TO OFFER ANKARA AS THE SITE OF THE NEXT MEETING HAD AGREEMENT BEEN REACHED ON THE DATE FOR ANOTHER MEETING. GEZER SAID THAT

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HE PERSONALLY HAD WRITTEN OFF THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY FUTURE BALKAN CONFERENCES, HOWEVER. HE SAID THAT NOT ONLY WERE THE BULGARIANS RELUCTANT PARTICIPANTS IN BALKAN COOPERATION, BUT HE HAD DETECTED A DEFINITE HARDENING OF THE ROMANIAN ATTITUDE DURING THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS. GEZER OFFERED THE OPINION THAT ROMANIA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD-----
THE BALKAN CONFERENCE REFLECTS A DEFINITE SHIFT AWAY FROM THE RELATIVELY INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY ROMANIA HAS

FOLLOWED DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS.

6. CONCERNING FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO SOFIA MARCH 8-10, GEZER SAID DISCUSSIONS WOULD CENTER ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE TURKISH MINORITY IN BULGARIA. HE SAID SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1975, IN PARTICULAR, THE TURKISH MINORITY IN BULGARIA HAS BEEN SEVERELY REPRESSED. HE SAID ANOTHER MAJOR GOAL OF CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT WOULD BE TO TRY TO WORK OUT A REASONABLE VISA REGIME FOR TURKISH WORKDERS PASSING THROUGH BULGARIA. ACCORDING TO GEZE, BULGARIAN STATE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN ZHIVKOV WILL VISIT ANKARA IN APRIL.
MACOMBER

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